WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of managing a network device, comprising:

providing a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API) compatible with a command-line interface (CLI) of the network device;

receiving an instruction from an application configured to call one or more routines in the CLI application programming interface; and

generating at least one command in response to receiving instructions from the application wherein the at least one command is compatible with the CLI of the network device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the CLI-API is implemented as one or more object-oriented classes and the one or more routines are method calls in the one or more object-oriented classes.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the class and methods are compatible with the Java object-oriented programming language.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more object-oriented classes are selected from a set of classes including a session management class, an input-output class, a configuration class, a macro-generation class, and other classes.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one command in the CLI of the network device is capable of performing one or more network management operations selected from a set of operations including configuring a network device, gathering information on network interfaces on a network device, bringing a network device up or down on a network, and downloading a new image to a network device.

6. A network system having network management capabilities, comprising:

a non-application enabled network device having a command line interface (CLI) capable of controlling one or more network management features of the non-application enabled network device; and

an application-enabled network device capable of executing applications that use a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API) to generate one or

more commands compatible with the CLI of the non-application enabled network device and transmit the one or more commands to the non-application enabled network device over the network for execution.

7. The network system of claim 6, wherein the application-enabled network device is capable of processing object-oriented applications compatible with the Java programming language.

8. The network system of claim 6, wherein a remote serial command line interface (RS-CLI) device connected between the network and the non-application enabled network device receives an application over the network from the application-enabled network device, executes the application and produces commands transmitted over a serial connection connected to the non-application enabled network device wherein the commands are compatible with the CLI on the non-application enabled network device.

9. The network of claim 8, wherein the RS-CLI device comprises,

a storage device capable of storing an instruction;

a network port capable of processing a network protocol stack and connected to the network;

a serial port capable of processing a serial protocol and connected to the non-application enabled network device; and

a processor capable of processing the instruction stored in the storage area of the RS-CLI device that at least generates a command compatible with a CLI of a network device in response to processing the instruction stored in the storage area.

10. The RS-CLI device of claim 8, wherein the instruction stored in the storage area is from a software component selected from a set of software components including an operating system, an object-oriented component, a virtual machine, and a network protocol stack.

11. A remote serial command-line interface (RS-CLI) device comprising:

a storage device capable of storing an instruction;

a network port capable of being connected to the network and capable of processing a

network protocol stack in addition to receiving the instruction;

a serial port capable of processing a serial protocol and capable of being connected to the non-application enabled network device; and

a processor capable of processing the instruction stored in the storage area of the RS-CLI device that at least generates a command compatible with a CLI of the non-application enabled network device in response to processing the instruction stored in the storage area.

12. The RS-CLI device of claim 11, wherein the instruction in the storage area is from a software component stored in the storage area and selected from a set of software components including an operating system, an object-oriented component, a virtual machine, a network protocol stack, and an object-oriented application.

13. A method of managing a network device, comprising:

receiving an application having instructions compatible with a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API) configured to work with a command-line interface (CLI) of the network device;

creating CLI commands capable of controlling the network device in response to processing one or more of the instructions compatible with the CLI-API;

transmitting the CLI commands created by the CLI-API over a network to the network device; and

processing the CLI commands on the network device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of processing the CLI commands on the network device manages one or more aspects of the operation of the network device.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising,

providing results from the processing of the CLI commands on the network device over the network and to the application.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the application is executed on an application-enabled network device and the network device is a non-application enabled network device having a CLI.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the application enabled network device is

capable of processing Java object-oriented instructions.

18. An apparatus for managing a non-application enabled network device, comprising:

an application-enabled network device configured to receive an application having instructions compatible with a command-line interface application programming interface (CLI-API) that works with a command-line interface (CLI) of the non-application enabled network device;

a processor associated with the application-enabled network device that executes the application and creates CLI commands in response to processing one or more of the instructions compatible with the CLI-API wherein the commands are capable of controlling the non-application enabled network device; and

a network interface on the application-enabled network device that transmits the CLI commands created by the CLI-API over a network for processing by the non-application enabled network device.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the CLI commands created on the application-enabled network device are capable of controlling one or more aspects of the operation of the non-application enabled network device.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the application-enabled network device receives results over the network from the processing of the CLI commands on the non-application enabled network device.

21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the application-enabled network device can process Java object-oriented instructions.